

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8887

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EUR/EE FOR AMBASSADOR BARNES AND DCM VIETS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EAID, RO

SUBJE: AMBASSADOR'S/DCM'S CONSULTATIONS: OFFSHORE PROCUREMENT
AND AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

1. THERE ARE TWO QUESTIONS--ONE INVOLVING SECTION 604 OF
FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT AND SECOND RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE--WHICH HAVE BEEN STALLED FOR SOME TIME.
DEPENDING ON DICK CHRISTENSEN'S READING IT MIGHT BE USEFUL
FOR DCM OR AMB TO MAKE INQUIRIES IN AID AND IN CONGRESS TO
DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS ANY PROSPECT OF MOVEMENT.

2. OUR BRIEF RECONSTRUCTION OF TWO QUESTIONS IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. SECTION 604 (OFFSHORE PROCUREMENT). CONG. ZABLOCKI
IS, OR AT LEAST WAS, FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO CLARIFYING CONGRESSIONAL
INTENT REGARDING OFFSHORE PROCUREMENT THROUGH MECHANISM OF
COLLOQUY ON FOREIGN AID BILL. LAST SEPTEMBER AID SEEMED
SATISFIED THAT THIS PROCEDURE WOULD PROVIDE BASIS FOR FAVORABLE
PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION (CHRISTENSEN/SCISSORS LETTER OF
SEPTEMBER 19). IN VIEW OF LENGTHY INTERVAL, WE ARE NO LONGER

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CLEAR WHETHER AID IS STILL ON BOARD, WHICH WOULD SEEM FIRST

QUESTION TO BE CLARIFIED. ASSUMING AID JUDGMENT REMAINS SAME,
WE WOULD ASSUME THAT NEXT LOGICAL STEP WOULD BE TO DETERMINE
WHAT ZABLOCKI VIEWS AS REALISTIC SCENARIO.

B. AGRITUTURAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. DEPARTMENT RECENTLY
REPORTED (A-3072 OF JUNE 18) THAT AID IS DEVELOPING PRELIMINARY
PLANS AND CONCEPTS FOR IMPLEMENTING RESEARCH PROGRAMS UNDER TITLE
XII OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD ASSISTANCE ACT OF
1975. SINCE USDA EVIDENTLY DOES NOT RPT NOT HAVE MAJOR
RESPONSIBILITY UNDER ACT, WE PRESUME THAT SECRETARY BUTZ' SUPPORT
FOR ROMANIAN INCLUSION MAY NOT HAVE BEEN PRESSED WITH AID
(AMBASSADOR'S LETTER TO SECRETARY OF JANUARY 5, 1976). AT
THIS STAGE, INITIAL ACTION WOULD SEEM TO BE TO CHECK LEGAL
PROHIBITIONS, IF ANY, UNDER NEW LEGISLATION. DEPENDING ON
RESPONSE, THERE MIGHT BE UTILITY IN URGING USDA TO ADVISE AID
OF ITS POSITIVE VIEW OF EXTENDING BENEFITS OF NEW ACT TO
ROMANIA.
SCISSORS

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